Daily running of Rajdhani Express

3722. SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the waiting list number in the Delhi-Bangalore trains runs into several hundred every day;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to run Rajdhani Express between Nizamuddin and Bangalore daily instead of bi-weekly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The number of passenger who remain on the waiting list after preparation of charts for Karnataka bound trains is on an average less than hundred per day.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Free Calls offer by Airtel

3723. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether no free calls will be given for the air time by Metro Cellular Operators;

(b) whether attention of the Government have been drawn on various newspaper advertisements and hoarding of Airtel. advertising free air time to lure the customers; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken against Airtel (Bharati Cellular) for misleading their subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The Department of Telecommunications has fixed the ceiling tariffs to be collected by the Licensees of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service from their subscribers. The details of ceiling tariffs are given in the Statement enclosed. Within the Ceiling tariffs, the operators are free to charge lower tariffs. The companies offer different packages to their subscribers. However, these are not regulated by the Government as long as they are within the prescribed ceiling.

Statement

Ceiling Tariffs for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Tariff

1. Monthly Rental for the Service - Rs.156/- per month
2. Security Deposit - Rs. 3000/-
3. Installation Charges - Rs. 1200/-

4. Call Charges :-

4.1 for calls originated by the Mobile Subscriber : Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call plus call charges as applicable for the fixed network for Local, STD, and ISD calls. For mobile to mobile calls within the same cellular service area, only air time charges will be levied.

4.2 for calls terminating on the Mobile subscriber : Airtime charge @ 10 seconds per unit call will be levied. No. charge will be levied to the mobile subscriber if the mobile subscriber terminates an incoming call within 5 seconds.

5. Notes on tariff :

5.1. Call duration will be on air time basis for mobile subscribers.

5.2. The air time unit call shall be charged at unit rate applicable to the highest slab of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs 1.40 per unit at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.3 Call charges for the air time during peak hours shall be fixed at rates not exceeding double the rates prescribed in para 4 above Peak hours shall be restricted upto a maximum of 4 hours per day. Peak hour and airtime call charges during peak hours may be fixed by the Licensee in consultation with Telecom. Authority.

5.4 Call charges for the air time during Sundays and 3 National holidays (15th August, 26 January & 2nd October) shall be half the rates prescribed in para 4 above.

5.5 For calls from mobile subscriber to the fixed net work, the Licensee shall charge the mobile subscriber at the rates prescribed by the Telecom. Authority according to time and day of the call. Unit rate for such calls shall be the highest slab rate of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs. 1.40 at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.6 There are no free calls to be given in the air time.

5.7 For calls originating from the fixed net work to mobile, the mobile subscriber will be charged for the air time and DOT will not have to pay any access fee to the Cellular Operator. The air time charges will be collected by the Cellular Operator.

5.8 For mobile both caller and called party will be charged.

6. All tariff increase shall be subject to prior approval of the Telecom. Authority and /or its successor.

7. The rental does not include the cost of the subscriber's terminal equipment (mobile handset). The subscriber is free to buy the terminal equipment from any source.